GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4851
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2008
RISE IN PRICES
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Yadav Shri Anirudh Prasad (Sadhu);Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent study by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India(ASSOCHAM) has indicated that the major cause of price rise in the country is excessive profiteering by Middlemen as reported in Hindustan Times dated April 14,2008:

(b) if so, the details of the major findings and recommendations of the said study alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN)

(a) & (b): The Government is not aware of any survey conducted by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).

(c): The Government is aware of some differences in wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities.This matter comes under the purview of State Governments. In this connection letters have been written to States/Uts Governments to Took into the issue and take necessary corrective steps in this regard. This issue was also discussed in the Conference of Chief Secretaries held on 22.4.2008, in which the State Governments were requested to take appropriate steps like market intervention to reduce the gaps between mandi wholesale prices and retail prices when such gaps are abnormal.